



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

ANGELA FAHERTY, Ph.D.  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: VIII.A.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Angela R. Faherty, Ph.D., Commissioner\*

DATE: November 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Composition of Review Team to Assess the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by The New England School of Communications to Award the Bachelor of Science in Entertainment Production.

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that a Maine postsecondary educational institution desiring to confer additional academic degrees must obtain authorization from the Maine State Board of Education.

The Maine Department of Education has received an application from the New England School of Communications (NESCom), a fully owned subsidiary of Husson University, for authorization to offer an additional undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Science in Entertainment Production (BSEP). The New England School of Communications has previously been authorized by the State Board to award the Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology and the Bachelor of Science in Media Studies. NESCom is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT). ACCSCT is recognized by the US Secretary of Education as a nationally approved accrediting agency under the provisions of Chapter 33, Title 38, U.S. Code and subsequent legislation.

It is proposed that NESCom would deliver curriculum that will focus on the technical knowledge and skills that are needed “behind the scenes”, rather than on performance. The objective of the program will be to graduate students who can flexibly apply entertainment technology across many venues. The proposed program has been developed in response to the need for professionals who understand and can design and operate sound, light, sets, show management control and special effects.

The application states that many industries use the design, fabrication and management skill sets formulated by the performing arts. The same design and construction techniques, traditionally associated with theatre, are now being employed in trade shows, amusement parks, casinos, rock concerts, cruise ships, shopping malls, the fashion industry, museums and exhibitions, television, sports contests, film and video production, and political conventions. By focusing on what these areas have in common, NESCom has designed a degree program to serve a broad career sector.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve the proposed individuals to serve as review team members to assist in evaluating the request from NESCOM to confer the additional degree of Bachelor of Science in Entertainment Production.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood  
Higher Education Specialist

### **Proposed Review Committee Membership**

The New England School of Communications has requested the review and approval of its application for additional degree-granting authorization. The following, for Board approval, is the proposed list of Maine educators to serve on the review team:

Dr. Thomas Edwards, Chair  
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs  
Thomas College  
Waterville, Maine

Dr. Charles Lyons  
President  
York County Community College  
York, Maine

Charles Altschul  
President  
Maine Media College  
Rockport, Maine

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Observer  
Maine State Board of Education

Harry W. Osgood\*  
Higher Education Specialist  
Maine Department of Education

\*Non-Voting Participants